Subdivision residents told streets can’t be repaired in ’95

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AMITE — Tangipahoa Parish Council President Gordon Burgess told residents of a subdivision near Ponchatoula their streets cannot be repaired until the next phase of the parish’s road overlay project.

Residents of Carl Lewis Subdivision told the Parish Council that potholes are injuring children riding bicycles and preventing school buses and mail carriers from traveling down the subdivision streets.

Burgess said Monday that Phase Six of the parish’s road overlay project is expected to be put out for bids before the end of the year.

Councilman Jackie Kupper assured the residents that their streets will be among the top three in priority for repair next year.

Burgess said B & C Contractors is expected to resume overlaying roads as part of the Phase Five project. He said the contractor was delayed due to cold weather and rain.

Council members submit 10 roads in their districts that need repair, and the parish administration selects up to five of these roads to overlay.

The $2.5 million Phase Five project is expected to be finished in six months, Burgess said.

The council deposits money into a special road budget monthly to build up a road fund and not tax residents, said Parish Treasurer Buddy Wier.

“We’re paying as we go,” Burgess said. “We’re not using credit and haven’t asked the people for a bond issue.”

Residents of Hano Road, which provides access to the parish landfill, said the north and south ends of the road have been paved, however, the middle section was not finished.

Burgess said he will ask contractors to work on the middle part of Hano Road during Phase Five of the road overlay project.

In a related matter, the council voted 6-2 for an ordinance to only accept existing roads into the parish maintenance program if they are 50 or more feet wide.

Pat Jarrell and Carlo Bruno voted against the ordinance. Bill Fleet was absent and Michael Petitto was out of the room and did not vote.

Councilman George Holton said 30- or 40-foot wide roads are too narrow, and the parish already has an ordinance requiring new roads to be 60 feet wide.

In other business, the council received several complaints about illegal dumping of garbage on the sides of parish roads.

Burgess said he met with sheriff’s department officials and the district attorney’s office and is developing a litter ordinance “that will have some teeth.”

Burgess said the council’s current litter ordinance is not tough enough.

Councilman Travis Edwards said he was ashamed to bring in out-of-state visitors to the parish.

“It’s time to move forward,” Edwards said.